

CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

1. - 10. (cancelled).

11. (currently amended) A business method for providing current credential information regarding at least one individual to an interested entity ~~from a relational database~~ comprising the steps of:

a)- obtaining initial information about the at least one individual ~~from by querying~~ at least one information source ~~by electronically querying~~ selected from the group consisting of information sources, the individual, information providers, public records, and commercial data providers;

b)- inputting the information into a sortable continuously updated relational database;

c)- sorting the information into at least one searchable unit within the sortable continuously updated relational database;

d)- obtaining updated information from the at least one information source, wherein the information is periodically updated by obtaining the updated information from the at least one information source such that the initial information contained in the sortable continuously updated relational database is constantly replaced by the updated information;

e)- replacing the initial information with the updated information within a predetermined time from when the updated information is obtained;

f)- ~~allowing at least one entity~~ the interested entity access to the information contained in the sortable continuously updated relational database;

g)- repeating steps b through e as often as updated information is obtained; and

h)- repeating step f as often as the ~~at least one~~ interested entity desires access to the information,

wherein the method results in the creation of an on-line continually updated profile of the at least one individual that can be accessed electronically on an as needed basis by the interested entity to verify the information about the at least one individual.

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12. (original) The business method as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the database is owned by a database owner and wherein a payment is made by the database owner to the at least one information source for the provision of information.

13. (currently amended) The business method as claimed in Claim 12, wherein the database is owned by a database owner and wherein a payment is made by the ~~at least one~~ interested entity to the database owner for access to the information.

14. (previously presented) The business method as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the information is personal information about the at least one individual.

15. (original) The business method as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the information is provided proactively from the at least one information source.

16. (original) The business method as claimed in Claim 15, wherein the information is provided automatically from the at least one information source.

17. (currently amended) The business method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein the updated information is provided automatically to the ~~at least one~~ interested entity

18. (currently amended) The business method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the ~~at least one~~ interested entity automatically on a periodic basis receives information from the database regarding a number of discrete individuals identified by the ~~at least one~~ interested entity to the database.

19. (currently amended) The business method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the ~~at least one~~ interested entity receives upon request information from the database regarding a number of discrete individuals identified by the ~~at least one~~ interested entity to the database.

20. (currently amended) The business method as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the ~~at least one~~ interested entity obtains the information about the at least one individual from the database for the purpose of determining whether the ~~at least one~~ interested entity desires to create, maintain or terminate a relationship with the at least one individual.

21. (currently amended) A method for collecting and providing information about individuals to an interested entity comprising the steps of:

a). obtaining initial information about the individuals ~~from by electronically querying~~ at least one information provider ~~by electronically querying selected from the group consisting of electronic information sources, the individual, the at least one electronic information sources, public records, and commercial data providers;~~

b). entering the initial information about the individuals into a relational database;

c). providing on-line access to the relational database to ~~at least one~~ the interested entity;

d). obtaining updated information about the individuals from the at least one information provider;

e). comparing the updated information about the individuals to the initial information entered into the relational database;

f). replacing the initial information entered into the relational database with the updated information about the individuals if the updated information about the individuals is more recent than the initial information entered into the relational database to create an updated relational database, wherein the information is continuously updated by obtaining the updated information from the at least one information source such that the initial information contained in the database is constantly replaced by the updated information;

g). repeating steps d through f as additional updated information about the individuals is obtained from the at least one information provider,

wherein the method results in the creation of an on-line continually updated profile of the individuals that can be accessed on an as needed basis by the interested entity to verify the information about the individuals.

22. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 21, further comprising the step of:

h)₂- transmitting the updated relational database to the ~~at least one~~ interested ~~party~~ entity automatically after updated information about the individuals is inputted into the relational database.

23. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the information about the individuals is obtained from the at least one information source on a constant periodic basis.

24. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the information about the individuals is obtained from the at least one information provider on a continuous basis when updated information about the individuals is available.

25. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the relational database is provided to the ~~at least one~~ interested entity on a constant periodic basis.

26. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the relational database is provided to the ~~at least one~~ interested entity on a continuous basis.

27. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the information about the individuals is obtained from the at least one information provider on a continuous basis when updated information about the individuals is available and the relational database is provided to the ~~at least one~~ interested entity on a continuous basis.

28. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 22, wherein the information about the individuals is obtained from the at least one information provider on a continuous basis when updated information about the individuals is available and the relational database is transmitted to the ~~at least one~~ interested entity on a continuous basis.

29. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 21, wherein the database is owned by a database owner and wherein a payment is made by the database owner to the at least one information source for the provision of information about the individuals, and wherein a payment is made by the ~~at least one~~ interested entity to the database owner for being provided the information about the individuals.

30. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 29, wherein the information is obtained automatically from the at least one information source and wherein the updated information is provided automatically to the ~~at least one~~ interested entity

31. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 30, wherein the ~~at least one~~ interested entity automatically on a periodic basis receives information from the database regarding a ~~number of discrete~~ number of the individuals identified by the ~~at least one~~ interested entity to the database.

32. (currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 31, wherein the ~~at least one~~ interested entity obtains the information about the ~~at least one individual~~ discrete number of the individuals from the database for the purpose of determining whether the ~~at least one~~ interested entity desires to create, maintain or terminate a relationship with the ~~at least one individual~~ discrete number of the individuals.

33. (currently amended) A computerized system for collecting and providing information about individuals to an interested entity comprising the steps of:

a)- obtaining initial information in digital form about at least one individual from at least one information ~~provider~~ source by electronically querying the at least one information source, wherein the initial information is related to the credentials of the at least one information and is selected from the group consisting of personal information, professional information, and governmental information;

b)- entering the initial information about the at least one individual in a digital format into a continuously updated relational database, wherein the continuously updated relational database comprises continuously updated digital information about the at least one individual;

c)- providing access to the continuously updated relational database to at least one entity interested in the at least one individual;

d)- updating the digital information in the continuously updated relational database by comparing newer information obtained from the at least one information provider about the at least one individual to the information stored in the continuously updated relational database and replacing the information in the continuously updated relational database with the newer information about the at least one individual if the newer information about the at least one individual is more recent and different than the information stored in the continuously updated relational database, wherein the information is continuously periodically updated by obtaining the newer information from the at least one information source such that the initial information contained in the continuously newer relational database is constantly replaced by the newer information;

e)- repeating step d as soon as the newer information about the at least one individual is obtained from the at least one information ~~provider~~ source; and

f)- transmitting the newer information to the at least one interested party automatically.

wherein the method results in the creation of an on-line continually updated profile of the at least one individual that can be accessed on an as needed basis by the interested entity to verify the information about the at least one individual, and the interested entity automatically obtains the information about the at least one individual from the database for the purpose of determining whether the interested entity desires to create, maintain or terminate a relationship with the at least one individual.

34. - 35. (cancelled).

36. (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 35, wherein the database is owned by a database owner and wherein a payment is made by the database owner to the at least one information source for the provision of information about the at least one individual, and wherein a payment is made by the at least one interested entity to the database owner for being provided the information about the at least one individual.

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37. (currently amended) A business method for collecting and providing credentialing information about individuals comprising the steps of:

- a)- obtaining initial information about at least one individual from at least one information provider by electronically querying the at least one information source and using a pull system that mines and extracts the initial information from the at least one information source, wherein the initial information is selected from the group consisting of personal information, professional information, and governmental information;
- b)- entering the initial information about the at least one individual in a digital format into a continuously updated relational database, wherein the continuously updated relational database comprises continuously updated digital information about the at least one individual;
- c)- providing access to the continuously updated relational database to at least one entity interested in the at least one individual;
- d)- updating the digital information in the continuously updated relational database by comparing newer information obtained from the at least one information ~~provider~~ source about the at least one individual to the information stored in the continuously updated relational database and replacing the information in the continuously updated relational database with the newer information about the at least one individual if the newer information about the at least one individual is more recent and different than the information stored in the continuously updated relational database, wherein the information is continuously periodically updated by obtaining the newer information from the at least one information source such that the initial information contained in the continuously newer relational database is constantly replaced by the newer information within a predetermined time from when the newer information is obtained from the at least one information source;
- e)- repeating step d as soon as the newer information about the at least one individual is obtained from the at least one information ~~provider~~ source;
- f)- transmitting the newer information to the at least one interested party automatically; and
- g)- a payment is made by the database owner to the at least one information source for the provision of information about the at least one individual, and wherein a payment is made by the at least one interested entity to the database owner for being provided the information about the at least one individual,

wherein the method results in the creation of an on-line continually updated profile of the at least one individual that can be accessed on an as needed basis by the interested entity to verify the information about the at least one individual.

38. (cancelled).

39. (currently amended) The business method as claimed in Claim ~~38~~ 37, wherein the at least one interested entity obtains the information about the at least one individual from the database for the purpose of determining whether the at least one interested entity desires to create, maintain or terminate a relationship with the at least one individual.

40. (new) A method for providing current credential information to an interested entity regarding an individual within a profession comprising the steps of:

- a) maintaining a searchable relational database containing credential information on the individual through a combination of:
 - (i) automatically obtaining the credential information on a predetermined period basis about the individual from a combination of electronic sources, the individual, organizations possessing information about the individual, public records, and commercial databases;
 - (ii) continually updating the credential information by replacing predated credential information contained in the database with updated information obtained by step (i); and
 - (iii) sorting the credential information into at least one searchable unit within the database;
- b) allowing the interested entity access to the database through an Internet interface; and
- c) providing the updated information to the interested entity through the Internet interface such that the interested entity automatically on a periodic basis receives the updated information from the relational database regarding the individual,

wherein the information consists of information selected from the group consisting of personal information, professional information, governmental information, court information, educational information, licensing information, certification information, and legal information; the method results in the creation of an on-line continually updated profile of the individual that can be accessed on an as needed basis by the interested entity to verify the information about the individual; and the interested entity does not maintain the database.

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